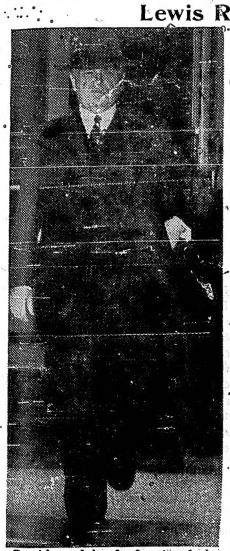
PEOPLE'S WEEKLY

VOL. XXIX, No. 31 · EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1949 · $2.00 per year; 3 years $5.00

Warns Against Tie-Up With U.S.

Lewis Raps Him



President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers leaves his Washington office after calling a 2-week "suspension" of mine operations east of the Mississippi to highlight union opposition to the appointment of James Boyd as director of the U.S. federal bureau of mines. Lewis termed Boyd "incompetent and unqualified."



Seated in his office, James Boyd is shown after receiving the news that President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers had ordered a "suspension of mining" east of the Mississippi for two weeks to protest Boyd's nomination as director of the U.S. federal bureau of mines.

Canadian Industry Protected Against Imports From Britain

People Pay For S.C.'s Propaganda

Undisguised use of the facilities of a government department to promote the political ideas of the party in power was revealed in the Alberta legislature last week. Opposition members called attention to an "information service" being given to members of the legislature, made up largely of political comment.

The "service", which includes a loose leaf binder to hold the sheets sent out by the Department of Economic Affairs, is departmentalized under several heads, one of which is "World Affairs." In the first issue of "information" under this heading is a distorted report of a radio speech by the Alberta leader of the C.C.F., followed by three pages of quotations purporting to answer what Mr. Roper was supposed to have said. Of the five pages on "World Affairs," three were devoted to the Alberta leader of the C.C.F.! Under another heading a statement of A. J. E.

(Continued on page 8)

DOUGHTY FIGHTER



ARTHUR WILLIAMS, M.P.

HIGH PRAISE FOR ONTARIO CCF M.P.

OTTAWA, (CPA).—Arthur Williams, M.P., is the soft-spoken Welshman who won an Ontario seat for the C.C.F. last June in what this party saw as a preview of big C.C.F. gains in this province when the election comes this year. Mr. Williams has made his voice heard frequently and effectively in the Commons thus far. He has many times championed veterans' rights, and on March 17th put in a word too for benefits to the Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters and got the minister's promise of consideration.

Non-C.C.F. Praise

Mr. Williams has made strong appeals for subsidized housing and health insurance schemes. And indications are, that back home his constituents are very well pleased with what their new member is doing.

A non-C.C.F. newspaper, the Oshawa "Times-Gazette", took occasion to compliment him editorially, mentioning in particular the very readable Ottawa commentary which Mr. Williams is sending to that paper each week. "It is highly commendable," the "Times-Gazette" says, "and we have received many favorable comments regarding it, from people of all shades of political opinion."

Trade Being Hampered by High Tariff

OTTAWA, (CPA)—Speaking in support of the bill to continue the Foreign Exchange Control Board, M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, on March 17th criticized the whole post-war trend of Canadian trade policy which he described as tying Canada to the fluctuations of the American market at the sacrifice of our traditional customer, Great Britain.

He attacked the government's policy, under the Geneva trade agreements, of restricting goods from Britain automatically whenever the same goods are banned from the United States. Many kinds of U.S. imports were shut off in order to save American dollars, and this stopped U.K. imports too.

"As soon as the war ended there was a great deal of pressure for protection by certain Canadian manufacturers," Mr. Coldwell said. "The government removed some of the advantages that Great Britain had enjoyed during the war by reimposing certain tariffs that were in the interests of the textile industry, the glass industry, and other industries in our country that had arisen behind protective tariffs.

(Continued on page 3)

WORKERS EATING MORE OF FARMERS PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON.— The average American is eating 12 per cent more food than before the war, official figures show. In other words, more money in workers' pay envelopes is helping farmers by increasing the market for their products.



PERSONAL STUFF

BY

E. E. R.

Every once in a while something happens to give me a real lift in spirit. The response of Alberta C.C.F. people to the appeal for investment in a "Woodsworth House" is one of them. We have gone over the top. When all that has been subscribed comes in we'll have more than the required ten thousand dollars to make the down payment on the property. We felt justified, therefore, in having a photograph made of the buildings and it is reproduced on page five of this issue. Money is still coming in. If it continues to come until the end of the month we'll be able to make a down payment bigger than $10,000, thus cutting down the amount which will be owing under the agreement of sale. So, if you had decided to get in with us on this great project, don't hold back because we already have enough to meet the required down payment. It would be a wonderful thing if we could raise enough to pay all cash and thus have all the benefits of the investment accrue to our own people. But whatever happens in the next week we have reason to be wonderfully elated at the response already received. What a great crowd of people we have in the Alberta C.C.F.!

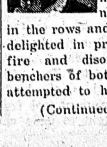
Coldwell Rebukes Drew-ites

Charges Tories Making A Farce Of Parliament

BY DORIS FRENCH

OTTAWA, (CPA).—When Mr. Coldwell told the Conservatives the other day that their obstruction and rowdyism in the Commons is "making parliament a farce" the C.C.F. leader was saying what dozens of Gallery spectators have said among themselves after a glimpse at House proceedings almost any day this session.

Mr. Coldwell was in a particularly good position to administer that rebuke — he said, "I feel it is about time someone said something about it in this House"—since the Prime Minister has more often than not been embroiled in the rows and the Liberals have delighted in provoking the crossfire and disorderly din. Back benchers of both old parties have attempted to howl down the op-



(Continued on page 3)

Federal Health Plan

THREE DENTISTS GIVEN TRAINING

OTTAWA, (CPA).—Canada has a ratio at present of only one dentist to every 3,000 people. If everyone who needs care went to get it, the dentists would be completely unable to handle the situation.

This was the statement of Health Minister Martin, addressing a luncheon in Ottawa on March 14th. The minister boasted again of his $30,000,000 health grants (actually slightly more than $2,000,000 has been paid out) and claimed that "the Professional Health Training grant is helping to improve the supply of suitably trained dental personnel." **He then revealed that a total of three—two from Ontario and one from New**

(Continued on page 8)

"Hocking Their Future"

WASHINGTON. — Net profit of the Commercial Credit Company —one of the big "time payment" finance firms—more than doubled from $7,668,000 in 1947 to $16,663,000 in 1948. This is one more sign of the way Americans are "hocking their future" by going into debt for automobiles and other products which, unlike homes, rapidly lose their value.

FEDERAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Boost in basic income tax exemptions from $750 to $1,000 for single persons and $1,500 to $2,000 for married.
- Exemption rate for each dependent child under 16 raised from $100 to $150 and from $300 to $400 for other dependents.
- 750,000 taken off income-tax rolls because of higher exemptions.
- Three-quarters of remaining taxpayers will pay an average of 15 per cent on taxable income, expected to be in effect April 30th and retroactive to January 1.
- Price ceilings removed from flour, bread, butter, sugar, molasses and certain fruits and vegetables—effective Wednesday.
- Subsidy of 46½ cents a bushel on wheat used for domestic consumption being withdrawn Wednesday.
- 25 per cent tax on jewelry and similar articles reduced immedi-

(Continued on Page 8)

And It Came To Pass...

By Percy Cudlipp
in the London Daily Herald

THE OTHER day a journalist said to Prime Minister Attlee:

"People don't know enough about you. They'd like to read some little human stories of your everyday life, your habits, your likes and dislikes."

Attlee's reply was courteous but unco-operative. And, to that sort of request, it always will be. He just doesn't want publicity about himself. He hates posing for photographs. Indeed, he hates posing of any sort.

And, frankly, I don't think our journalism would be much enriched even if the prime minister were to encourage collectors of "little human stories". His personality does not lend itself to anecdote.

What is interesting about Attlee is not his external behavior, but his mind and his methods. And if you agree with me that it's more important to know what your prime minister thinks than what he eats for breakfast, you will read with great attention a book which is just published: "The Labor Party in Perspective—and Twelve Years Later," by C. R. Attlee (Victor Gollancz, 7s. 6d.).

Many of you will have read it already. For the issue of this book is an event unusual in the publishing world and even more unusual in politics. It is a reprinting of a book which Attlee wrote in 1937.

Few Prophets

At that time, Labor had never been in office with power. The Second World War had yet to be fought; there were still many who believed it could be avoided; there were very few who foresaw the extent of the political upheavals and the economic devastation which that war has caused.

What Attlee set himself to do in 1937, writing as the leader of the Labor Party in opposition to the sham "National" Government, was to tell in simple terms the history of the movement for Socialism in Britain, to define the Labor Party's principles, and to outline the policy the party would follow when it came to power.

He could not guess what world conditions would be like when Labor took over the government. For convenience, he had to assume that they would be "normal"—that the political relationships of the Great Powers would be "fairly quiet", and that at home we should have the two million or so unemployed whose miseries were a commonplace under Tory rule.

Far From Normal

As it turned out, of course, the conditions in which Labor took power were fantastically far from normal. Britain's economic strength had been disastrously enfeebled by her war sacrifices. Her industrial equipment needed repairing or replacing. Her cities had been heavily bombed. Her people were tired. There was a shortage, not a surplus, of manpower. There was a shortage throughout the world of essential foods and raw materials. Among Labor's immediate tasks were the immensely complicated processes of demobilization and the reconversion of industry from war to peace production.

As for international relationships, they were difficult when the peace began and have become more difficult since.

And, in spite of all this, the Labor policy which Attlee outlined in 1937 has been steadily carried through. In "The Labor Party in Perspective" he named several measures which must be enacted as soon as Labor commanded a working majority. The Bank of England must be nationalized; long-term capital investment must be controlled so that it would conform with a national economic plan; powers must be taken to purchase land by compulsion when the public interest required it; coal, gas and electricity production must come under public ownership and direction; so must transport; and there must be "a vigorous program of agricultural development without delay".

Since 1945

Each one of those reforms has been brought about since Labor came to power in 1945.

Attlee, in 1937, condemned Tory neglect of the Distressed Areas, and called for the placing of new industries within them. "The solution of the problem," he explained, "does not consist in removing people from these areas and transferring them to other parts of the country, but rather in rebuilding industry within the areas themselves." Labor's resolute and enterprising operation of the Distribution of Industry Act is fulfilling that plan.

Of India and Burma, Attlee wrote in 1937 that "only their people themselves can work out their own salvation. The sooner they have the full opportunity to do so the better." Labor in power very promptly sought negotiations on a basis of equality with India and Burma. Today they are free.



RT. HON. C. R. ATTLEE, P.C., C.H.,
Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Two main conclusions arise from the re-reading of Attlee's 1937 chapters on a future Labor policy.

The first is that Attlee himself showed remarkable vision, and a very clear understanding of the Labor movement, when he forecast so accurately how that movement would act once it had the power to do so. For, remember, Labor policy is not dictated by party leaders; it is the choice of the majority.

"I am not prepared," Attlee wrote, "to arrogate to myself a superiority to the rest of the movement. I am prepared to submit to their will, even if I disagree. I shall do all I can to get my views accepted, but, unless acquiescence in the views of the majority conflicts with my conscience, I shall fall into line, for I have great faith in the wisdom of the rank and file."

The second conclusion is that Attlee's government has been both courageous and wise in carrying out, despite abnormal times, the program which he prescribed in 1937.

Persistently the Conservative propagandists have urged the government to postpone Socialist measures so as to "get on with the job" of solving post-war economic problems. But the government, all along, has seen that post-war conditions made it even more urgently necessary to introduce Socialist measures, because a planned and controlled national economy was essential in those conditions. Moreover, any departure from the Socialist program would have caused widespread and dangerous disillusionment among the workers on whose output the recovery depends.

What has happened is that, simultaneously, the government has kept its pledges; has grappled with unprecedented difficulties at home and uncertainties abroad; and has directed a national recovery drive which is the admiration of the world. It is a splendid achievement.

Vivid Picture

There is a great deal in Clem Attlee's book which makes it important reading for the young Socialist. The historical chapters are excellently written. From them, and from the chapters describing the constitution and working of the Labor movement, a vivid picture of Attlee's mind can be obtained.

And what dominates that picture is his insistence on the democratic essence of British Socialism; his firm rejection of any path to Socialism which involves the suppression of freedom, because "once the methods of terrorism is adopted it is very difficult to abandon it"; his conviction that "the Labor party, whatever faults or failings it may have, is the only practical instrument in this country for the attainment of a new order of society."

Noble Part

"Socialism to me," he says, "is not just a piece of machinery or an economic system, but a living faith translated into action. I desire the classless society and the substitution of the motive of service for that of competition."

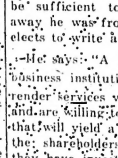
He has played, and is playing, a noble part in translating the Socialist faith into action. In playing that part he is aided by his great energy, his integrity, and—as this book demonstrates—by a mind which is visionary yet singularly well balanced, tolerant yet penetrating.

Bankers' Propaganda

By WM. IRVINE, M.P.

I HAVE JUST obtained a copy of a pamphlet written by Mr. James Muir, Vice-President of the Royal Bank of Canada. This pamphlet, entitled "The Canadian Banking System" is being widely circulated throughout Canada and I understand is being distributed in Alberta high schools.

While there can be no objection to permitting the most widespread diffusion of any idea, there is grave doubt about the advisability of subjecting youths in school to the propaganda of a single pressure group unless they are also exposed at the same time to alternative views.



Mr. Muir, at the very outset, tells us that he is going to explain "what a bank is . . . and does." But nowhere within the bounds of the pamphlet does the author come within sight of doing either. To quote his definition of a bank would almost be sufficient to show how far away he was from the subject he elects to write about.

He says: "A bank is simply a business institution established to render services which people need and are willing to pay for, at rates that will yield a modest return to the shareholders on the money they have invested." Well, would someone please mention what business that generalization would not embrace. If that describes what a bank is, then a bank might be a packing plant, a grocery store, a lumber mill, a news stand, or a brewery, or any other business which performs a service people are willing to pay enough for to yield profit to the investor. When we were confronted on the first page with a definition as loose and meaningless as that, we did not expect much enlightenment on banking and we were not therefore disappointed.

Next we are treated to a page or two of "obiter dicta," about the virtues of the Canadian banking system. It is averred without a fact of substantiation that our banking system is not surpassed, if indeed it is equalled, by that of any other country in the world? Who says so? Why a Canadian banker of course, but does his saying so make it so? It does not. And even if it were so, that might still mean that our banks are unsatisfactory institutions.

Next we are given the weighty observation that "our banking system is the product of evolution." Sure it is, but what does that prove? Lizzards and piles, bunions and microbes, man and beast, birds and fish, and indeed all history is a product of evolution. That fact gives no information either about what a bank is or what it does, nor does the author mention either the things it ought not to do but does, or the things it should do but doesn't.

Power to Issue Credit

The next point which Mr. Muir endeavors to impress upon the public is the small percentage of profit made by the banks in 1946. Before answering that let me point out that the profit which a bank makes is the least important objection to our banking system. The matters of a managed currency and of the granting of the proper amount of credit to meet as exactly the demands of trade and industry as is humanly possible are of vastly greater moment than its high profits. True, that despite the protests of the banks, the Bennett government took from the banks the right to issue currency, a privilege which was an outrage for any government ever to bestow. But they still control the issuing of credit which is much more important since that represents about 98% of the money ordinarily in circulation. And the banks have made such a mess of that, that they have swung the nation from boom to slump alternately ever since the power to control credit was granted to bankers in the Bank Act. And it is during a slump when foreclosures are rampant that the banks can make their most profitable investments.

Not Doing the Job

The author quotes a sentence from the preamble of the Bank of Canada Act in which it stated that part of the function of the Central Bank is to "mitigate by its influence fluctuations in the general level of production, trade, prices and employment, so far as may be possible within the scope of monetary action." But while this is a legitimate aim of any bank, the Central Bank does not perform

(Continued on Page 6)

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POOR MR. BIRKS!

Mr. Henry Birks, of Montreal, is one of Canada's "Big Shots". Aside from being the head of a national jewelry firm he is a director of the Bank of Montreal and Victor Record Co. When he speaks, then you know it is the voice of Big Business. He is also president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce which is by no means all composed of big business guys like Mr. Birks. Most of the members of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce are still in the throes of making their first million. Their hopes are some day to become like Mr. Birks. He is their symbol of success. They just thrill to listen to him and day-dream of reaching the pinnacle on which he proudly stands. So, when he came to Edmonton all the "hopefuls" were there to cheer this voice of Big Business. The commercial press, of course, gave him plenty of publicity. Such wisdom should not be kept under the bushel.



It was very revealing and interesting to know what's on Mr. Birks' mind. Obviously things in this world are not panning out to this mogul's liking. The trouble seems to be too much government authority. We have lost our liberty, says Mr. Birks. No mention was made of the particular kind of liberty we have lost, but I can well imagine what he had in mind. Because he was complaining of too much social security. You know such things as minimum wages, floor prices for farm commodities, rent controls, unemployment insurance, etc. Too much of it altogether, says Mr. Birks. Destroys initiative. (Ever hear that before?) It was plain that Mr. Birks is a dreamer, like Mr. Churchill. They dream of the good old days when hungry men fought for jobs at any price, when farmers would sell their eggs for 8 cents per dozen to get a pair of overalls, when mortgage companies could evict people from their farms and their homes, when a ten cent flop and two bowls of soup per day was the allowance for unemployed.

So Mr. Birks considers he has lost his "liberty". And a thousand goo-goo-eyed would-be-millionaires cheered to the rafters. So blinded they are by their greed and acquisitive instinct that they cannot see their own welfare depends on the buying power of their fellow citizens. So stupified they are in their ambitions that no one would rise and challenge the utterances of this business mogul who craves for the good old days of the Hungry 'Thirties and all the human degradation that went with them.

And, of course, he warned them of the dangers of Socialism. Particularly he was concerned with the "respectability" of Socialism. Believe me, brother, that is something to worry about. Not only the respectability but the popularity of it as well. Somehow or another ordinary common folks like the security measures which Socialist governments have brought about. The British workers, to Mr. Churchill's great dismay, have taken to health insurance, subsidized housing and profit control like ducks take to water. He cannot even win a single by-election in 3½ years. Yes, Socialism is becoming popular and respectable. All the mud-slinging, all the twisting and lying about Socialism does not seem to have the desired effect. Once people have tasted social security—they ask for more. And Mr. Birks thinks he has lost his liberty to take advantage of the poverty stricken unemployed wage slaves as his predecessors did during the black years of the Industrial Revolution.

Poor Mr. Birks!

Charges Tories

(Continued from Page 1)

posite leaders, and Speaker Fauteux has had no easy task to keep any semblance of orderly progress in the business of the House.

Plain Talking

Rising to speak on the Foreign Exchange Control Bill on March 17, shortly after the noisiest scrimmage of the session thus far, Mr. Coldwell did some plain talking. He said he had never seen such an exhibition in the thirteen years he had been in parliament. Turning to the Conservatives, who he said "are making parliament a farce," Mr. Coldwell said, "May I tell my honorable friends that there are more ways of destroying democracies and democratic institutions than by burning a Reichstag . , ." Mr. Drew blustered, "That is right. You have found it." "That is what some honorable members are trying to do," Mr. Coldwell said, "destroy it by destroying confidence in the institution which our forefathers have built up. . . . I agree with the member of the Canadian Press who described the scenes in this House this session the other day as comparable with behaviour in a beer garden."

Irresponsible Obstruction

George Drew himself has played the biggest part in these irresponsible obstructive tactics. At this week-end the Commons faces what appears to be a crisis in procedure. The government has never before been so crowded for time to get through major pieces of legislation which carry "deadlines." Rent control, steel control, lumber priorities, bread and fruit control, the Foreign Exchange Control Board, the Agricultural Products Act which buys the food shipped under contract to Britain, and the Canadian Commercial Corporation Act which subsidizes industry, are all due to expire on Saturday, March 26th, unless Parliament passes bills to extend them. In addition, the Budget is being introduced on Tuesday, March 22nd, and the Atlantic Security Pact is to be debated in time to get Parliament's general approval before the Washington conference in early April.

Tory Filibuster

The Tories seem determined to filibuster the whole program of emergency legislation. For example, Mr. Drew took up the whole of the extra morning session on March 18th, speaking from 11:15 until one o'clock on the preliminary, resolution stage of the Foreign Exchange Control bill—a stage at which there is often no debate at all. About twenty per cent of his time was wasted on points of order and challenges, hurled back and forth.

It is hard to credit the Tories with so little sense as to try to force an immediate election by blocking rent control and kindred matters, but unless the temper of the House changes completely this week, that could happen.

Saskatchewan Budget

- No increases in taxation for 1949-50 fiscal year.
- Capital expenditure of $13,616,000 proposed, for "future economic development of the province".
- Further reduction in net debt of $1,117,000 in past year brings total reduction since April 30, 1944, to $69,625,750.
- Increase in sinking fund of $5,000,000 in past year boosts fund to $44,000,000, second highest of any Canadian province.
- Bank balances at February 14, 1949, at $10,336,897.
- Estimated "net" expenditures 14, 1949, at $10,336,897. estimated revenues at $49,110,950, estimated surplus at $9,730. Estimated "gross" expenditure at $56,479,410, approximately two per cent greater than total estimated 1948-49 expenditures.
- Mineral production in 1948 valued at $34,421,180, an all-time record for the province.
- Estimated expenditures on agriculture up by about $475,000, with an extra $310,000 included in land clearance projects by other departments.
- Other estimated expenditure increases: Health $1,301,000; social welfare $1,006,000; education $527,000.
- A sum of $2,000,000, in capital account, for grants and loans for school buildings and equipment. Special $1,000,000 fund to be set aside to provide financial aid to worthy students.

Down in a small Southern town a Negro with a badly slashed face entered a doctor's office.

"Hello, Sam," the doctor greeted him. "Got cut up again, I see."

"Yes, sah!" was the doleful rejoinder. "I done got carved up wid a razor, Doc."

"Sam," demanded the doctor, laying out his bandages and medical supplies, "why don't you keep out of bad company?"

"Doc, I sho' would like to," Sam moaned, "but I ain't got 'nuff money to git me a divorce!"

Warns Against

(Continued from page 1)

"We have increased our exports to the United States, but I think that most people will agree that the United States market for Canadian goods has always been a very uncertain one. There have been times when they were prepared to take quantities of certain classes of goods from us, and then from time to time, when they found that they could themselves produce the goods that they were taking from us, we lost those markets. We have seen these fluctuations ever since I have been in this country, now some forty years. . . . The peculiar situation in the United States is that no one seems to know what is going to happen internally to their country. Lately we have seen a somewhat sharp drop in certain prices in the United States. There is considerable unemployment and we have seen certain classes of farm commodities drop in price. . . . Where you have the kind of economy that is subject to great fluctuations there is grave danger. That will be particularly the case if we are tied up completely to the United States."

Warns Against Depreciation

Mr. Coldwell said that if the Canadian dollar is depreciated ten per cent as advocated by the Tories, "the cost of living for the mass of the people in this country would probably increase by more than ten per cent.

"I am free to admit that it might benefit certain speculative interests, and the gold-mining interests in the country," Mr. Coldwell added.

"Since the depreciation of our dollar would be done only at the expense of sacrificing our agriculture and the standard of living of our people, I think the suggestion is thoroughly unsound and I would oppose it on those grounds," the C.C.F. leader said.

Mr. Coldwell supported continuation of the Foreign Exchange Control Board. "I believe no government in any country, in the circumstances now existing all over the world, can do other than exercise a considerable amount of economic control in order to protect its own nationals, its own domestic economy and indeed its international trade," he said.

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THE FEDERAL BUDGET

NOW THERE is no doubt about a federal election this year. The budget introduced in the House of Commons by Finance Minister Abbott on Tuesday evening has given tax concessions to nearly everybody and will reduce the cost of living by the removal or reduction of levies on various forms of merchandise and services.

Of chief importance to low-income families will be the higher exemptions—$1,000 for single persons instead of $750, and $2,000 for married persons instead of $1,500. This change will take 750,000 Canadians off the income tax rolls.

There are no doubt many weaknesses in the budget which will be brought to light in the debate in parliament. But Mr. Abbott's speech will take some of the wind out of the Tory sails. Probably no larger cuts could have been made without reducing services now being given.

C.C.F. members will no doubt call attention to the lack of any real provision to meet a possible recession in the national economy and the failure to raise the old age pension to a decent level.

SHOULD BE STRONG PROTEST

MEMBERS OF THE Alberta legislature have received from the Alberta Teachers' Association the reproduction of a letter sent by the Association to the press protesting against the announced intention of the government to introduce the "county" system into municipal government. The proposal of the Minister of Municipal Affairs is to bring all municipal government, including education, under a single council.

The teachers' association is alarmed and is calling on the Alberta Educational Council to take strong action in the matter.

Although there are several teachers on the government side of the house, and the former president of the Alberta School Trustees' Association, it was left, as usual, for the C.C.F. members to raise the only objections that were raised to a proposal which the teachers' association claims will be a terribly backward step for education.

As we said in these columns last week, the government's proposal will put education in the position of competing for funds with roads, bridges and culverts in the deliberations of a municipal council. That will be a step backward indeed. It is to be hoped that the people interested in education in the province will let their voices be heard in this matter.

TOLERANCE VETOED

THE COUNCIL of the City of Calgary asked the Alberta legislature to authorize an amendment to the city charter to provide that:

> Every license issued to the owner or keeper of an Exhibition Theatre, Music Hall, Moving Picture Show, Public Hall, Swimming Pool, place of amusement or recreation, eating place and hotel shall be subject to the condition that no discrimination on account of race, creed or color shall be shown against any member of the public who seeks admission to the premises in respect of which the license is issued, and every such license shall bear a written or printed endorsement to the foregoing effect.

After a discussion in which R. E. Ansley, leader of the "Douglasites", suggested that the requested amendment probably originated with "Communists", the clause was defeated in the municipal laws committee, by the votes of Social Credit members.

We cannot think of anything more likely to contribute to the growth of Communism than for Communists to be given credit for such a decent, human decision as that of the Calgary City Council which was vetoed by the Social Credit legislature.

"CHILDISH," HE SAID

IN THE legislature last week the Howson report on child welfare was under discussion. The discussion arose on a motion by the leader of the Liberal party commending the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire for the investigation and report which initiated the appointment of the Howson commission.

The Liberal motion had its political implications. But in that respect it was mild indeed in comparison with the purely political amendment moved on the government side of the house.

In order to bring the discussion back to the important issue involved—which was what the government intended to do about the twenty-three serious recommendations of the commission—the C.C.F. members moved a sub-amendment asking that the government give consideration to the immediate implementation of the commission's recommendations.

"Childish", "cheap", "ridiculous" were some of the terms used by Premier Manning to describe the suggestion that the government should implement the recommendations of a commission which had conducted an extensive investigation and which had found much need of change in the administration of child welfare in the province.

THE THIRD COLUMN

"QUEBEC'S BON AMI"

Time, March 21:

"Maurice Duplessis' supporters were looking for a payoff of their own, from George Drew and his Progressive Conservative Party.

"French Canadians who have spilled over the Quebec border into Ontario are hard-pressed to support separate parochial schools where the ancestral faith and tongue are taught. Electioneering in Franco-Ontarian districts last summer, Drew (as Premier of Ontario) allowed the word to be passed that his party would fix things up for the Roman Catholic separate schools. As a tangible act of good faith, Drew made several outright grants to Catholic institutions, including $300,000 to the University of Ottawa. It worked; his party won six out of seven 'French' ridings. But then Drew quit as Premier to take the national Tory leadership; the Ontario government has done nothing since for the separate schools.

"Last week Renaud Chapdelaine, a Duplessis henchman and Georges Heon, a maverick Quebec Tory who had just proclaimed his allegiance to Drew, served notice that they would no longer support him unless he used his influence to make his successor at Queen's Park take care of the separate schools. 'L'Action Catholique' warned, just as bluntly, that the Tories could expect no Quebec votes unless they did right by the Franco-Ontarians.

"If Drew hopes to make good on Tory propaganda which calls him 'Quebec's bon ami,' he too would have to pay off."

★

POLITICAL SANCTUARY

Winnipeg Citizen, March 7:

"The question raised in parliament that a number of Frenchmen known to have collaborated with the Nazis are living in Canada is something that should be explored thoroughly by officials. Canada should not be used as a sanctuary for political extremists with records of violence behind them, whether they are on the extreme right or the extreme left of politics."

★

CHILD LABOR, ALASKAN VARIETY

The Call, Calgary, February 15:

"Employment of children for as long as 19 and 20 hours a day and up to 87½ hours a week in an Alaskan salmon cannery is one of the conditions found during the course of inspections for compliance with the child labor provisions of federal labor laws reported in December by wage and hour inspectors. Two of the children were only 13 years of age when hired.

"This inspection disclosed that the cannery had employed 8 boys and girls under the age of 16 years. The inspectors reported that one of these worked as long as 19 hours a day and up to 87 hours a week during the peak of the canning season. Another worked as long as 19½ hours a day and up to 87½ hours a week. A third worked as long as 20 hours a day and up to 82½ hours a week."

FOOTPRINTS



DEMOCRACY— A SOCIAL FAITH

BY J. P. GRIFFIN

"For the Eternal your God—loves an alien. Love the alien then, for you were aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt."

DEMOCRACY ALSO believes that racial, cultural, and political minorities should be tolerated, respected, and valued. It does not accept the theory, so dear to the capitalist mind, that the possessor of millions of wealth is unquestionably the possessor of untold wisdom too. It does not belittle its own intelligence by blind acceptance of direction from its leaders, nor is it convinced that having all its citizens think alike is necessarily a good thing.

Racial minorities are to be tolerated, respected, and valued. What can be more unfair to any individual than to abuse him because of his nationality? No living being is responsible for belonging to the family into which he was born. Who would blame an oak for not being a lily, or a bat for not being a beetle, or a mole for not being an eagle? Then why blame human beings for being something that was settled for them forever before they were even born? This stupid practice of condemning people on racial grounds only persists because it pays someone well to keep it going. How simple for the monopolist in South Africa, when his victims become aroused to whisper, "It's the Indians"; in Malaya, "It's the Chinese"; in America, "It's the British"; in Germany, "It's the Jews." Alas for us, that even so-called Socialists and Christians still fall for this filthy stuff!

Cultural minorities are to be tolerated, respected and valued. Wisdom does not always lie with the majority, nor is there any foreseeable finality to human variations. Foreign missions are no longer uniformly conducted upon the theory that all the "heathen" are necessarily condemned to hell. We have found that God has had something of value to say to all his children. So it is with regard to cultural patterns within, for instance, our own Dominion. Remembering the weaknesses and failures of our own social patterns, who will care to say that we have nothing left to learn and can afford to be disrespectful toward folk-ways which seem so strangely different to our own?

Political minorities are to be tolerated, respected and valued. They are to be valued because they may highlight a wrong that needs to be righted. They are to be valued because they represent the convictions of free men. Because the wrong can be righted. Because the conviction may be the Eternal Truth. Ill-mannered behavior on the part of parliamentary majorities toward minorities, adds nothing to the cause of democraty, but is on the contrary evidence of a poorly concealed contempt for it.

So then, with toleration which does not degenerate into weakness, with respect which does not compel agreement, with an appreciation of values which does not surrender the right to criticize, with these qualities of mind, the inheritors of democracy will face the future unarmed, and unafraid.

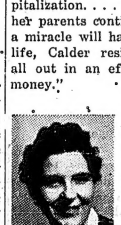
Pushing Back on the Breeching

By Mrs. Nellie Peterson,

President, Alberta C.C.F.

"Twelve hundred dollars may mean life or death for 10-year-old Maisie O'Driscoll of Edmonton.

Only if the money can be raised in time will the golden-haired little girl be able to undergo an operation **to save her life.** The sick child's father, a janitor at the Provincial Administration Building, has no money to pay the expenses of the trip and cost of hospitalization. . . . While Maisie and her parents continue to hope that a miracle will happen to save her life, Calder residents are going all out in an effort to raise the money."



Yes, that's the story that made headlines last week in one of Canada's richest provinces! **"Only if the money can be raised in time"** will this Alberta child have the chance for life and happiness!

Different in Saskatchewan

Surely every reader must experience a shock of revulsion that this can be so. Surely many Alberta citizens will be remembering that during the long years of war Canada provided free medical and hospital care and very long airplane trips to the brave young men and women whose lives were to save democracy and bring into being a better world; they'll be remembering that away back in 1919 the Liberal party promised a health plan for Canadians—a promise never kept! They'll be remembering that **in our sister province of Saskatchewan a C.C.F. government ambulance plane would have flown Maisie O'Driscoll to the Mayo Brothers' clinic and brought her home again; that her hospital bill would have been taken care of under the Hospital Insurance plan, and that not one hour's delay would have been allowed because "the child's father has no money to pay the expenses of the trip and hospitalization."**

We don't doubt that through the kindness and generosity of Calder people, Maisie reached Rochester; but this golden-haired little girl personifies the chronic tragedy of a people who have failed to recognize that the provision of health services is our co-operative public responsibility.

Until we do, all the boasted oil wealth of our rich province will not prevent thousands of parents being "worried sick", as Maisie's parents were, lest for lack of money their children be needlessly handicapped or needlessly die; thousands more will walk in daily fear of financial ruin through sickness, and untold numbers will continue to live with unnecessary pain and suffering because they

(Continued on page 8)

- - - THE HONOR ROLL - - -

Stettler—Raised at Stettler C.C.F. Banquet	$141.00
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Acadia-Coronation—John R. McLean	6.00
Lac Ste. Anne—Jas. Oswald	4.00

A. J. E. LIESEMER AT RED DEER APRIL 8

A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A., will be the speaker at a supper meeting, to be held in the Buffalo Hotel, Red Deer, at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 8th.

Those wishing to attend are urged to get tickets well ahead. The sponsor, the Red Deer Federal C.C.F. Constituency Board, is anxious that a good representation should attend from all parts of the Red Deer Federal Constituency.

Recognized as one of the best debaters in the Alberta legislature, Aylmer Liesemer is an interesting and entertaining after-dinner speaker who has as well, a long-time and intimate picture of the C.C.F. nationally and provincially. Tickets are well worth $1.50 and may be obtained in advance from D. C. Dandell, 5610 - 47th Avenue, Red Deer, or any member of the Federal Board.

This Is "Alberta Woodsworth House"



Located in down-town Edmonton, a half block from Jasper Avenue, 10140 - 107th Street, the property pictured above has been acquired as provincial headquarters for the Alberta C.C.F. The purchase of the property was made possible by the investment of scores of members of the C.C.F. in bonds ranging from $50 to $500. The ground floor of the main building will contain the C.C.F. Provincial offices and a spacious board room. The second and third stories each contain a five-room suite which will be rented to provide a return on the investment. There is also a three-room suite in the basement. The house on the rear of the lot contains seven rooms and is also rented. Behind the main building is a fire-proof garage from which further revenue will be obtained. The property is in what is called the industrial zone of Edmonton and the land itself is valuable and will continue to get more valuable as the city grows.

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Mrs. Peterson Speaker

SUCCESSFUL C.C.F. BANQUET, STETTLER

A very successful C.C.F. banquet was held in the Stettler Hotel on March 18, with 70 people in attendance. The Stettler Provincial Constituency committee was very much pleased with the attendance and the response given to the program for 1949 which was presented by Mrs. Nellie Peterson, provincial president. She explained the objective as to memberships, "People's Weekly" subscriptions, and educational program. It was anticipated, she said, that a Federal election would be held this summer.

The C.C.F. proposed to present an honest and unbiased explanation of its platform knowing it to be the only solution whereby the people may enjoy the social security which is their right, the C.C.F. provincial president stated.

Promises Don't Materialize

With Canada's rich resources, said Mrs. Peterson, no person should go without the basic necessities of life. All parties agree to this, she observed, but when the old parties are elected to power, housing and health plans remain on paper and people continue to pay heavy doctor and hospital bills and many suffer because of a lack of proper housing. The C.C.F. will encourage long-range financial and community planning, she explained, and will amend the national housing act so as to assist housing co-operatives.

Because the C.C.F. is financed

(Continued on page 8)

Calling All Women

A BROAD canvassing scheme is in operation in some constituencies and will start in others very soon. Volunteer C.C.F.'ers will call on other C.C.F.'ers in their constituency for their 1949 membership and "People's Weekly" subscriptions.

Mrs. Anne Peters, President, Provincial Women's Committee, has prepared some pointers for the workers in her constituency. Women who are canvassing in other districts may find these hints helpful to them:

Pointers for Canvassers

1. Know your stuff. Four thousand C.C.F.'ers in Alberta must raise a minimum budget of $11,000.

2. Be polite but persistent. Remember a promise from a C.C.F.'er means something. Where you cannot get cash, get a pledge and be prompt in collecting when it is due.

3. Promote a planned program of C.C.F. support. $1.00 per month will take care of a man and his wife's memberships and the "People's Weekly" for a year. Two dollars a month is better.

4. Remember the C.C.F. women are workers. A wife's membership is included in a sustaining membership. Try to get some new women members.

5. Be pleasantly co-operative. Interest the member to come to our meetings. Ask him for suggestions as to how they may be improved. Have some answers ready for his criticisms.

6. Give a day a week or some planned time for canvassing. You don't do your regular work haphazardly, plan your volunteer work for a regular time also. You know one of the C.C.F. principles is planning.

7. You are part of a team. Teamwork and co-operation are brothers. Don't let your team down. Success means satisfaction for you and progress for our movement.

SUPPER MEETING TO HEAR A. J. E. LIESEMER

A date: April 8th, 6:30 p.m. Place: Buffalo Hotel, Red Deer. Speaker: A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A. An Occasion: Supper Meeting. Sponsor: Red Deer C.C.F. Federal Constituency Board. Tickets: $1.50. Salesman: D. C. Dandell, 5610 - 47th Avenue, Red Deer.

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Bankers' Propaganda

(Continued from Page 2)

this desirable aim. It does not have the actual control of credit.

The chartered banks have it in their power entirely to grant or refuse to grant credit. And the very fact that the banks failed to prevent deflation after World War I, failed to prevent inflation in World War II and are not going to prevent the deflation which will shortly set in, proves that the chartered banks are not carrying out efficiently the principle quoted by Mr. Muir from the preamble of the Bank of Canada Act.

Now a word about the profit made by the chartered banks. Mr. Muir quotes the dividends at 3.9 per cent for 1946. But he forgot to mention that the banks were permitted to split their shares in 1944. A 100 dollar share was divided into 10 shares, thus opening the tap for stock watering. The Bank of Montreal stock was down as low as $146 per share before the split took place. Next year shares were as high as 18.50 per ten dollar share or an increase of $39.00 over the previous low of $146 a share. Similar increases were evident in the stock of the other banks.

Bank Profits Up

In any case the profits of the banks for the past three years are very much higher than the 3.9 per cent as given by Mr. Muir for 1946. The total profit of the banks in 1946 was $12,541,405; in 1946, $16,473,775 and in 1947, $19,449,082. The percentage of total bank profits in 1946 was 4.9 per cent, in 1947 it was 5.7 per cent and judging from the tendency indicated in the three preceding years 1948 will show a higher percentage of profits still.

But there are also ways of hiding profits in reserves and other accounts which might be interesting if one had time and occasion to delve into them. As things are, however, there is quite a margin between the 1½ per cent paid to depositors and the 5.7 per cent profit which the banks took in 1947. And it must not be forgotten that percentages are deceiving. A depositor gets 1½ per cent on his few hundred or few thousand but the banks average as high as 5.7 per cent on all the money they draw into the reservoir.

We are told that safety of the depositors' money is the thing which the banks do par excellence; that confidence is commanded by their record and that the Minister of Finance represents the public interests in banking. But with all that we have had some of the most disastrous bank failures in history during the past fifty years.

Simply Isn't True

Then, the writer for the bankers goes on to say that the banks "mobilize the deposits of millions of individuals on the one hand to make credit available for the nation's production on the other." The substance of this is that what the banks lend to borrowers is the actual cash put on deposit in savings accounts by the bank depositors. That is a view of banking as old as Methuselah and as false as hell. To prove that this is a false statement I have but to state the facts about what takes place.

In the first place, the banks lend on the average ten times as much money as they have currency on deposit. So that despite Mr. Muir's palaver about the safety of depositors' money, if all the depositors in his bank were to ask for their money tomorrow morning only one out of every ten would get what he deposited. That is how safe the depositors are. They are safe only because they never ask for their money back all at the same time.

In the second place it is not someone else's money which a banker lends to a borrower. What happens when a person borrows money from a bank is that he first deposits his credit in the bank which is usually many times the value of the loan obtained. The banker marks into his ledger the amount borrowed as a credit to the borrower, who proceeds to write cheques to the amount so credited to him. And when he sells the product he hypothecated at the bank, whether that be merchandise, or wheat, cattle, hogs or what not, he pays the money to the bank and the loan is cancelled. In most cases the borrower pays by the check of some other customer and the transaction is merely the transferring of figures from the account of one customer to another. From 96% to 98% of all banking is that sort of transaction. Hence every loan is a deposit and increases the volume of money in circulation by the amount of the loan. And every loan paid cancels out of existence the amount of money represented in the loan. Thus it is quite true to say that bankers actually create the money they lend and destroy it again when the loan is paid.

Unfortunately, an article for a paper with the limited space of the "People's Weekly" does not permit me to follow Mr. Muir in detail. I must therefore select the most obvious errors, weaknesses or deliberate misrepresentations—as the case may be—in the booklet on banking now under review. Here is one of that type of statement which ought to be challenged:

Bankers' Propaganda Agents

The author says: "Canada's banking system is not a monopoly." As proof of this he instances the fact that a number of trust companies, mortgage companies, and insurance companies also deal in loans. Let me instance a few other more cogent facts for consideration.

Before doing so it may be of interest to note that ever since the challenge to banking monopoly was made in the Parliamentary Enquiry of 1923, the bankers have retained special "Public Relations Counsellors," who are paid propaganda agents of the banks, to condition the public mind in that regard. In fact Mr. Muir's pamphlet itself is a part of that propaganda.

No Competition

There are ten chartered banks in Canada. It is safe to say that there would only be one now were it not for the fact it would be impossible for bankers to even try to deny the charge of monopoly if only one branch bank existed to serve the Dominion. The ten existing chartered banks all belong to the same Bankers' Association. By agreement they fix the interest rate and decide when it is time to start or end periods of credit contraction or credit expansion. There is no competition whatever between the banks in anything that matters. The only real competition is in the breadth and warmth of the manager's smile. They even decide by agreement that in town so and so, such and such a bank or banks only shall be established, and that in other towns banks so and so will open branches. This is monopoly by agreement.

But the evidence of monopoly is not confined to these obvious agreements. Of the ten chartered banks, three of them, known as the "Big Three," control more than 70 per cent of all banking assets in Canada. They are the Royal Bank of Canada with gross assets of $1,509,097,572, and controlled by 28 directors; the Bank of Montreal with $1,313,064,655, with 26 directors; and the Canadian Bank of Commerce with gross assets of $1,903,183,539 and 28 directors in control. But this is only the beginning of the story.

Now let's blow away the smoke-screen of trust, insurance and mortgage companies which Mr. Muir threw around the chartered banks to prevent the public from sensing their monopolistic character. There are in the ten chartered banks 183 men on their Boards of directors. But these same men all have directors' seats on the boards which also control 92.1 per cent of the gross assets of all trust, loan and investment corporations, 89.2 per cent of the assets of all insurance companies and 82.5 per cent of the assets of all fire and general insurance companies in Canada.

Or to state the position in another way, these 183 directors of the 10 Canadian chartered banks control the banking and financial corporations which own 94.1 per cent of the gross assets of all lending institutions of the nation. These companies act as reservoirs for the people's savings which, through the interlocking of bank and loan company and insurance company directors, are all made available to the manipulation of a handful of bankers. What is this if it is not a credit monopoly?

But banking monopoly spreads out far beyond the fringes of merely banking functions. As a matter of fact, 94 directors of the "Big Three" banks hold some 800 directorships in 484 corporations, engaged in all of the major industries of the country. Included in these 800 directorships held by the banks are 185 companies of which directors of one of the "Big Three" is chairman of the directors' board. And among these 185 companies are at least a score of the largest monopolies in Canada.

183 Directors in Control

Now, in the face of such a setup as that, would not a director of a bank, who is also a director of one of these monopolies, other than banking, find that it was to his interest to lend exclusively to the companies of which he was a director and to freeze out companies whose success might mean a reduction in profits of such companies? Indeed, as the author of "Who Owns Canada" truly says: "What chance can there possibly be for free enterprise and the 'little man' within the framework of an economic system in which contraction of control has reached the stage where 95 per cent of the banking and investment assets of the country are controlled by the 183 directors of the ten chartered banks of Canada?"

Civil Servants!

Those who read the Muir pamphlet will notice that he quotes the objectives of the Central and publicly-owned bank with approval, and praises its great work during the war. Yet in the closing paragraph he warns against public ownership of the chartered banks. He asks: "Where would the depositors and the businessman be if the branch bank manager became a civil servant?" Yes, where indeed? What Mr. Muir is really asking is what would happen if the bankers were in the employ of the people instead of the people being in their employ and at their mercy in all financial matters?

But why should it be any worse for a chartered bank manager to be a civil servant than it is for the Central bank manager to be a civil servant? Mr. Muir has admitted the efficiency and the public nature of the service given by the publicly-owned Central Bank. How then does he expect to make the people generally, and the businessman in particular, scared by his ravings against public ownership of the chartered banks? Well, unless they are the fools he apparently thinks they are, they will not be.

It might be expected that the Social Credit Government, and members of that party who had so much to say against the bankers in order to get elected would have undertaken an expose of this propaganda to which youths in school are being exposed. But of course the oil interests and the banking interests are one, bound together by an interlocking directorate which is a dictatorship of wealth, or economic Fascism. Having succumbed to the oil interests, which deal in the real wealth, it is not surprising that the Government has also succumbed to those who gamble with the symbols of real wealth, namely the money-mongers.



Toward a Final Peace for the Holy Land



While separate negotiations continue between the new state of Israel and the Arab nations, truce teams (1) sent by the United Nations, check opposing Arab and Israeli positions during informal conferences somewhere along the front. Meantime, (2) at United Nations Headquarters on the Island of Rhodes Acting U.N. Mediator Ralph Bunche (center) initials armistice agreement between Israel and Egypt, as U.N. plane (3) stands by to take truce teams anywhere they might be needed. The Israeli and Egyptian chief representatives (4) join in a friendly handshake after signing an armistice to end fighting between the armies of their countries.

WHO OWNS THE C.P.R.?

By William Irvine, M.P.

When is a National Railway not a National Railway? The answer is when it is nationalized by a capitalist government and deliberately kept in subservience to a private railway. In actual fact, the Canadian people own much more of the C.P.R. than they do of the C.N.R., but legally they do not own a spike in that line. When the C.P.R. was built the company got $25,000,000 of a grant in cash from the public treasury; it got a section of railroad already built and which was valued at $35,000,000; it got $10,000,000 donations from the provinces, and it got 25 million acres of land including all surface and mineral rights. Perhaps this latter gift proved to be by far the greatest.

Starting so auspiciously the C.P.R. has made large profits which the people have paid chiefly in freight charges, with the western provinces paying about two-thirds of the annual income of the line. Today the C.P.R. is one of Canada's great monopolies.

Another Royal Commission

Last year the Canadian railways, which of course means the C.P.R., applied to the Board of Railway Commissioners for an increase of 30 per cent in freight rates. Despite protests from all sections of the country an increase in rates of 21 per cent was granted. Not satisfied with this an application is made this year for another 15 per cent increase. The merits or otherwise of this application has been under review by the Board of Railway Commissioners and the case for the people has been presented by counsels appointed by the various provinces.

Meanwhile protests from provincial governments and from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture were so determined that a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the whole freight rate structure. The western provinces want an equalization of freight rates and the abolition of what is known as the mountain differential. It remains to be seen whether this will turn out to be just another Royal Commission.

A Canadian Colossus

The Canadian Pacific Railway heads the list of Canada's Big Shots. This company owns gross assets of $1,557,280,000. It is commonly supposed that the Canadian people own the Canadian National Railway, while in fact they own and are responsible only for its debts. The C.P.R. is well on the way to owning Canada, the Canadian National included.

It was started by large gifts of public money and property as stated above. It now operates a transcontinental line of railways with branches both in Canada and the United States. It has steamship lines on every sea, on the great lakes, and in coastal trade. It has air lines which are gradually pushing out the T.C.A.; a chain of ornate hotels, together with very large subsidiary companies in mining, smelting and power corporations, and its directors are the directors of most of Canada's large industries.

For example, on the board of directors of the C.P.R. are directors of the Bank of Montreal, The Royal Bank of Canada, Continental Life Insurance Co., Steel Company of Canada, General Motors Corporation of Canada, International Nickel Co. of Canada, Dominion Textile Company, Montreal Cotton, Dominion Glass Co., Consolidated Plate Glass Co., Consolidated Paper Corporation, and the Woods Milling Company.

But that is not all. There are also among the directors of the C.P.R., six directors of the Bank of Montreal, four directors of the Sun Life Assurance Co., three directors of Dominion Bridge Co., two directors of the Steel Company of Canada, two from the Dominion Engineering Co., two from Canadian Industries, two from the General Electric and one director from each of the following: Algoma Steel, Canadian Locomotive Co., Canadian Car and Foundry, United States Steel Corporation, the International Nickel Co., of Canada, Aluminum Limited, Bronze Company, Federal Airways, Canadian Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Co., Canadian Marconi Company, Bell Telephone Co., Canadian Cement Company, and the British American Oil Company. Is it any wonder that they got their 21 per cent increase in freight rates? And does it surprise anyone that they come back for another fifteen per cent? And would you be surprised if they got that too? They probably will not get it until after the next election, hence the Royal Commission as a delaying tactic in timing.

C.P.R. And Alberta Oil

When the Canadian Pacific Railway got its 25 million acres of land as a gift, unlike the lowly homesteader, it also obtained the title to all mineral rights in those tracts. It holds the mineral rights on seven million acres of Alberta land. What a picnic it must now be having in the oil fields of that province! The British American Oil Company is one of its subsidiaries. The 20-million-acre land grant may not have meant much to the people of Canada at the time it was given. Here was a continent without settlers and little else but land. And yet the homesteaders when they did come, although counted on to pioneer the country and bring untold wealth in land values to the C.P.R., were not granted their mineral rights. That was reserved for others to exploit, others who were more privileged. And now when the old pioneers and their successors have developed the country they have the pleasure of watching the C.P.R. and others get wealthy on what should have been the natural and rightful heritage of all the people.

C.P.R. Directs C.N.R.

Not only is the C.P.R. a monopolistic colossus generally, but in particular it prevents by its great wealth and its consequent political influence the best use by the people of their own Canadian National Railway. It is well known, especially among the C.N.R. employes, that because of easier grades and other natural advantages the C.N.R. can haul transcontinental heavy through freight more cheaply than the C.P.R. could possibly do. It is estimated too that the passenger transcontinental run could be made at least 12 hours faster on the C.N.R. than on the C.P.R.

One reason for the possibility of cheaper and quicker service on the National line is the fact of a much easier grade through the mountains and a straighter line and better roadbed through the eastern and central portions of the route. Through some sections on the mountain route the C.P.R. must put on at least two and sometimes three engines both on freight and passenger trains. The C.N.R. on the other hand can haul more freight through the mountains with one engine than the C.P.R. can haul with three.

It goes without saying that if efficiency were the determining factor the C.N.R. would be hauling all heavy through freight. With the increase in tonnage, freight could thereby be reduced. In addition, if the C.N.R. were allowed to run its passenger trains as speedily as it safely could it would shorten the time of travel from coast to coast by at least 12 hours. But the C.P.R. does not want that done and so it is not done. It has sufficient influence to direct both the schedules of time and freight not only on its own line but on the C.N.R. as well. In reality the C.P.R. directs the C.N.R.

Any sort of real competition on the part of the C.N.R. is stifled at birth as being "unfair" competition. This constant frustration on the part of the C.N.R. employes and management destroys the morale and reduces effort to mediocrity. So if it can be said that the C.N.R. is publicly owned it is most certainly not publicly directed, and will not be so directed so long as the C.P.R. is permitted

(Continued on Page 8)

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LABOR DIRECTORY

Look Here for Information Regarding Officers, Meetings, etc., of Trade Unions and Other Labor Organizations in the Province.

EDMONTON

Carpenters & Joiners of America Local 1325, Edmonton, Alta., United Brotherhood of—Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays in the Labor Temple. President, Charles D. Blair, 10220 107th Street; Fin.-Sec., L. D. Pollard, 9828 101A Ave.; Treasurer, J. A. S. Smith., 11882 95A Street; Business Agent, J. P. Cragg, Labor Temple.

Garment Workers of America No. 120, United—Meets second Wednesday in each month in Labor Hall. President, Percy Williamson, 9648 106A Ave. Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. Smith 9817 95th Avenue.

FIRE FIGHTERS, No. 209, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF—Meets in No. 2 Fire Hall. President, A. J. G. Lauder, 14609 - 101 Ave. Sec.-Treas., J. Graham, 11947 - 92 St., Edmonton.

UNITED PACKINGHOUSE WORKERS OF AMERICA—Edmonton, Alberta.
MEETINGS
Local 233 (Burns)—Second Monday of each month; Alberta Avenue Hall—8 p.m.
Local 243 (Canada Packers)—First Monday of each month; Alberta Avenue Hall—7:30 p.m.
Local 280 (Swifts)—First Thursday of each Month; Alberta Avenue Hall—8:00 p.m.
Local 319 (Gainers)—Second Wednesday of each month; Ritchie Community Hall—8:00 pm.
Local 345 (Horse Co-op.)—First Saturday of each month; U.P.W.A. Board Room—10.00 a.m.
Local 396 (N.W. Mill)—Second Saturday of each month; U.P.W.A. Board Room—10.00 a.m.
Edmonton Joint Council—Last Wednesday of each month; U.P.W.A. Office—8:00 p.m.

Co-op Housing



If you have less than $25 in the bank, a low-pay job, five or more children and the look of an honest man about the eyes, it's a cinch to buy a house in Canon Chamberlain's co-operative in Three Rivers, Quebec.

If you have 12 to 17 children and no money in the bank you're in. For no down payment and $50 a month for 16 years you get a two-family duplex with six rooms in each flat, on a lot 50 by 100 feet. You live in the lower flat yourself, and rent the upper flat to a family with children (that's an inflexible rule) for $25 a month. That means your house costs you only $25 a month, including taxes. Says Canon Chamberlain: "An honest look is the most important asset for a prospective co-operator." The type of housing in the co-operative is shown here.—(CPA)

CRACKLINGS

A decrepit horse was being offered to the highest bidder. An old farmer watched as a young man in riding breeches bid for the animal. When the sale was completed he turned to the young fellow.

"Tell me," he said, "what on earth are you going to do with that nag?".

"Oh," replied the cocky young sportsman, "I'm going to race him."

The farmer took a second look at the animal. "Well, you'll win," he said.

Herbert Hoover, former president of the United States, was in a car that knocked down a drunken man. He feared the man was killed, and alighted in a state of great anxiety. The man, however, was little hurt, and as soon as he saw Mr. Hoover he let forth a torrent of profanity. "My friend," said Mr. Hoover, "never in my life have I heard such language, but never in my life have I been so pleased to hear any language at all."

There was a heated argument going on in the courtroom one day. The case involved a woman who was hit by a car. The defending lawyer, eager to get his client's innocence across to the jury, said, "Mr. Smith couldn't be wrong; he's been driving cars for 15 years."

The prosecuting attorney, always a shrewd talker, countered quickly with: "In that case my client is certainly right. You see, she's been walking for 40 years."

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Federal Budget

(Continued from page 1)

ately to 10 per cent at manufacturers' level, instead of present retail level.

- No changes in succession duties liquor taxes, tobacco taxes, general sales tax.
- Soft drink tax (25 per cent plus one cent per bottle) repealed immediately.
- Tax on pipes and smokers' supplies (now 35 per cent) reduced to 10 per cent immediately.
- Tax on transportation tickets (15 per cent) repealed immediately.
- Surplus of $87,000,000 estimated for 1949-50, with revenues of $2,477,500,000 and expenditures of $2,390,000,000.
- Tax on first $10,000 of corporation income reduced from 30 to 10 per cent; rate on income over $10,000 increased from 30 to 33 per cent.
- No extension beyond July 1, 1949, of tariff concessions on British cotton and rayon piece goods.

Three Dentists

(Continued from page 1)

Brunswick—have so far taken a course in dental public health under the federal scheme.

Mr. Martin estimated that at least three-quarters of the population at present "neglect" to have their teeth cared for.

The minister, in surveying the dental picture in the provinces, did not overlook the "particularly notable development" in Saskatchewan, where four stationary and seven mobile dental units are being fully equipped to work in the various health regions and bring better dental services to 40,000 or more children of pre-school age. "The value of these projects in Saskatchewan cannot be overestimated," he said.

BRITISH DEATH RATE LOWEST IN HISTORY

LONDON, England. — Figures just issued by the registrar-general show that death rates in Britain are now the lowest ever known. Last year three new health records were set up. In addition to a spectacular fall in the general death rate, fewer babies died and the number of stillbirths were the smallest ever recorded. Infant mortality rate was 34 per thousand, and the death rate was only 10.1 per thousand. Live births registered last year in England and Wales were more than 777,000. This compared with a pre-war level of 621,000 in 1938.

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VALLEYVIEW WHIST BOOSTS RADIO FUND

Members and friends of the Valleyview C.C.F. Club held a whist drive at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Halverson, Saturday, March 12. Six tables played. Proceeds will be forwarded to the radio fund.

Who Owns The

(Continued from Page 7)

to wield monopolistic power. All the corporations that are interlocked with the C.P.R. directorate will naturally ship freight over the C.P.R. no matter what the rates may be. They don't pay the rates — the consuming public do that—and besides the C.P.R. is partly owned by them and all freight is directed to the C.P.R. with the avowed intention of making a white elephant out of the C.N.R.

What We Need And How To Get It

What is needed is a rationalizing and coordinating of our entire system of transport under public policy. It is practically impossible to do that except all transport is brought under public ownership. If this were done the present iniquitous and incomprehensible freight rate structure could be abolished. We could then have a flat rate charge per ton mile which is the only sensible and fair basis.

Freight rates as they are in Canada today cannot be upheld on any grounds except that of collecting from the people all that the traffic will bear. From the point of view of fairness and justice they cannot be defended. Western provinces as well as the Maritimes are discriminated against to an intolerable degree. A Royal Commission may marshall the facts and make recommendations, and if the usual practice is followed, that will be the end of it.

This is now an issue which requires the verdict of the public. There is only one force more powerful than the influence of great monopolies and that is the majority votes of the common people. The power to make laws primarily in the public interest and to enforce them is the only power which is feared by the dictatorship of wealth. It is for that reason that the C.C.F. is slandered, misrepresented and lied about in the press. That is why millions are being spent by monopolies to advertise these slanders. The C.C.F. would stop the further plundering of the public by the C.P.R. No other party intends even to try to stop it because they are controlled by the C.P.R. It is therefore a matter for the people to decide by their ballots.

The male prairie chicken has a wind sac on his throat with which it makes its booming call.



Please Note!

The pamphlets "Security For All" have now arrived from the National Office and all orders for these and "Who Owns Canada" have been filled. As we have two or three orders without names and addresses, would anyone, not in receipt of the above books, please notify this office.

The C.C.F. Provincial Office,
10070 - 102nd Street,
Edmonton.

People Pay

(Continued from Page 1)

Liesemer in the "People's Weekly" was "answered" with two pages of comment.

Score Misuse Public Funds

Just as they had fought against the political activities of the Social Credit Board, the C.C.F. members of the legislature condemned in vigorous terms the flagrant misuse of public funds involved in a $10,000 a year cabinet minister having nothing better to do than concoct political propaganda under the guise of "information."

Premier Manning used his pet epithets of "childish" and "cheap" to describe the opposition criticism of the work of the department. He said the opposition members had no right to interpret as political the material quoted in the "information service."

In reply Mr. Roper reminded the house that the Premier had always made solemn declarations that there was nothing political about the work of the Social Credit Board, but when the Board was abolished it was announced that "its political activities would from then on be conducted by the Social Credit League."

Through The Back Door

Mr. Liesemer recalled that he had predicted a year ago that the Social Credit Board with its political bureau was being kicked out the front door but that political propaganda at public expense was being introduced through the back door via the so-called department of economic affairs.

The debate provided the liveliest sitting of what has been one of the dullest sessions in years.

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In Britain

GOVERNM'NT-AIDED COMMUNITY SHOWS

BY KENNETH C. RATHBONE

MANCHESTER, England.—Dances, musical concerts, film and stage shows are now being organized by municipal authorities using powers given to them by the Labor Government's Local Government Act, 1948. Admission charges are moderate. When entertainments are not self-supporting the municipal councils may subsidize them.

Some of these affairs cater to those who want a higher standard of entertainment than that provided by the commercially-owned theatres. Entertainments provided vary from town to town. Some put on Sunday evening shows, usually provided by a local amateur orchestra, professional or local amateur entertainers, community singing, and refreshments at moderate prices.

A typical example is the program of the borough of Leyton (Essex) which is allowed to spend up to $72,000 a year on municipal entertainments if it wishes. Bomb-damaged public baths have been coverted into a municipal theatre and the borough has an entertainments manager.

Pushing Back on

(Continued from Page 4)

can't afford the care to make them well.

Sanctimonious Excuse

Meanwhile, the Manning government, which hates to travel the progress road, is pushing back on the breeching. A provincial health and hospital insurance plan has been turned down with the sanctimonious excuse that we would find it ruining our freedom and initiative! Well, nearly a hundred years ago the British Tories offered the same excuse for refusing to prohibit the employment in factories of children under twelve years of age! Freedom—what things are done in thy name!

Let us not only wish Maisie O'Driscoll a speedy and complete recovery. Let us redouble our efforts to relegate to the old-fashioned horse-and-buggy past such a story of worry and need; let us remember that civilization is to be measured by our ability to consciously plan and effectively carry through a co-operative way of helping ourselves by **helping each other.**

At birth a black bear cub weighs from 9 to 12 ounces, which is about 1/200 to 1/250 of its mother's weight. It is about 8 inches long, blind, and covered with a dark hair so thin that it is practically naked.

Successful C.C.F.

(Continued on page 5)

by their own members and thousands of working people, they will be free to keep their promises, Mrs. Peterson pointed out. The old line parties can't fulfil their promises, she explained, because those who provide their election funds, and therefore control them, are unwilling to pay the price.

Public and Private Ownership

Public and co-operative ownership as well as private enterprise would all have their appropriate place in developing the economy of the country under a C.C.F. government, she said. Quoting the words of J. S. Woodsworth, "What we desire for ourselves we wish for all", Mrs. Peterson said that is truly the policy of the C.C.F.

C.C.F. Notes

Nomination of a candidate to contest the federal Camrose constituency was made unanimous when more than 40 representatives from different provincial groups met at Daysland on Saturday, March 19th.

An annual convention and nomination will be held in the Legion Hall, Camrose, on Saturday, April 9th, at 1 p.m. The Ladies' C.C.F. Club of Camrose will make arrangements for a plate lunch and some evening entertainment.

There will be a night meeting at which it is hoped to have A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A., and Wm. Irvine, M.P., as speakers. There is likely to be a contest as several have expressed willingness to accept the nomination.

There was evident a desire to further the interest of the C.C.F. in a federal contest whether the odds were bright for winning or not. Promise of adequate financial and personal activity support was given. Gerald Oberg, of Forestburg, was chairman, and Carl Colvin, of Sedgewick, secretary of the meeting.

An objective of 300 members to attend the nominating convention was furthered by the declaration of those present to canvass the membership to urge attendance.

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